

II Reflection

By Renée Anderson

“...for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”

Without realizing it, I repeated these words for us this week. When I realized they were repeated I nearly retracted them, then stopped. Maybe He wants me to repeat them, so I should listen and obey. They stuck with me this week for a reason.

Why not. Why not repeat them! We should always remember He has done great things for us. And we, in turn, are to help those who do not have what they need. 'Tis the season after all. You may be receiving loads of requests from various charities and we wish we could help them all. But we should be wise about our selection and help those we can and leave the rest to another donor. We must be practical in our givings. Personally, I like to give to my church, it's foundation, it's outreach, and its programs. The newspaper publishes articles from our Primate, various clergy, and lay to enable us to connect with one another and speak the truth from our hearts. And I support this. God is working through all of us to be a part of this community. Thanks be to God.

Fear is written in verse 50 of Luke 1. Fear is the respect of God, the awe. It's used over 300 times in the Bible; 400 in some versions. This must be where awesome comes from!!! (Some friends would understand this.) Mary recognized the importance of fear of God and accepted his mercy. I can see why God picked Mary. Very innocent and held a conviction in her faith of God. In order to live the next nine months in her circumstance she would have to be a very faithful servant, and receive the strength she needed from God to give birth to Jesus, to travel, and not worry (too much) where her home would be for her new family. This would be a worry to any woman. And yet she sings! This is awesome too.

I remember a few years back when I heard about Christians visiting the holy land—Israel. When asking what they could do for the people of Israel, it was said “pray for us, pray for the Jews, pray for Israel.” We are a part of the promise from God. We are part of his plan, starting with the Jews then the Gentiles. Please pray for all people. Mary was doing just that. “...from generation to generation.” And, “He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy....” We should be kind to one another. We must be at peace with one another. It's up to us to make this a better world, with God's help.